



*The President's Daily Brief*

*16 December 1970*

50

*Top Secret*

50X1



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 December 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Cambodia, South Vietnamese troops have begun their clearing operation along Route 7

[Redacted]

50X1

(Page 1)

North Vietnamese troops are entering the infiltration system in December at a rate that will approximate the infiltration starts of the last two months.

(Page 2)

50X1

[Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted]

Mrs. Gandhi may take advantage of her current popularity and schedule elections early next year. (Page 5)

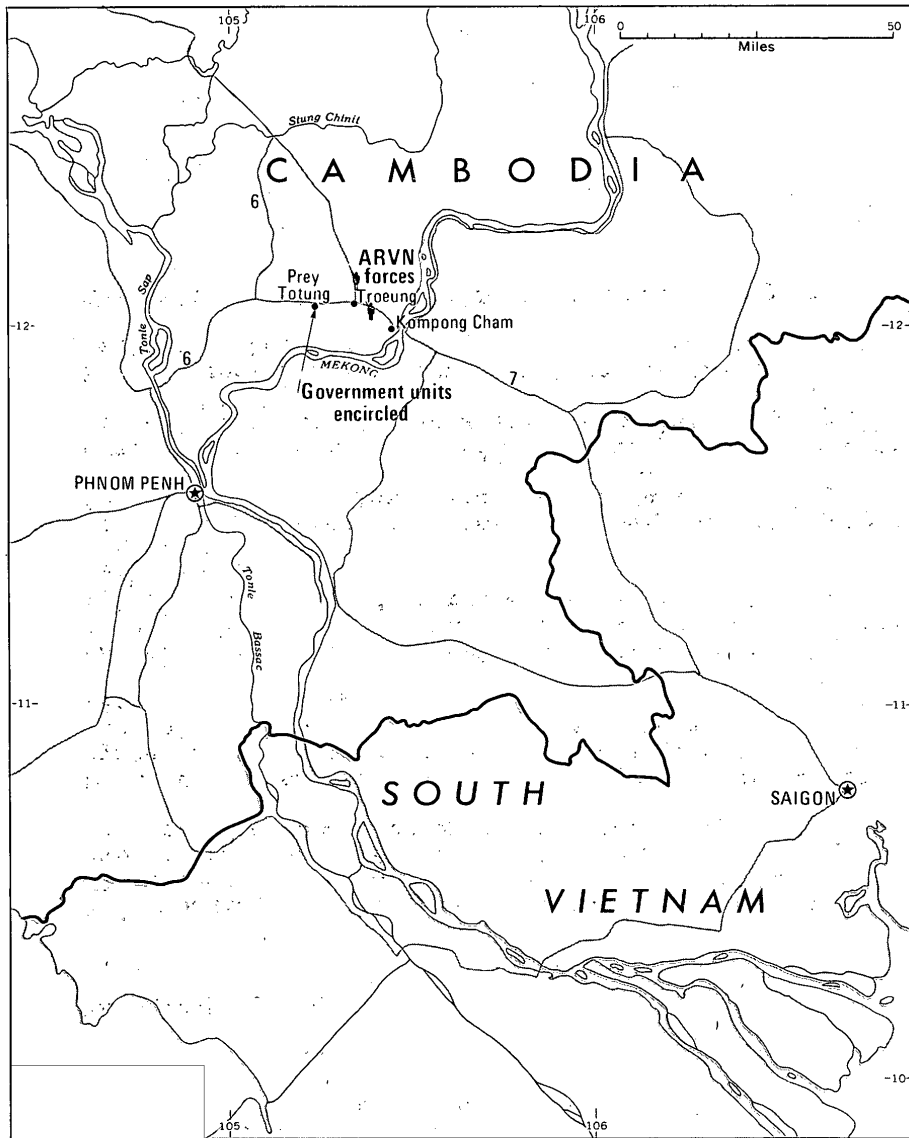
[Redacted]

50X1

50X1

The military situation in Laos is noted on Page 6.

### Cambodia: Current Situation



550697 12-70 CIA

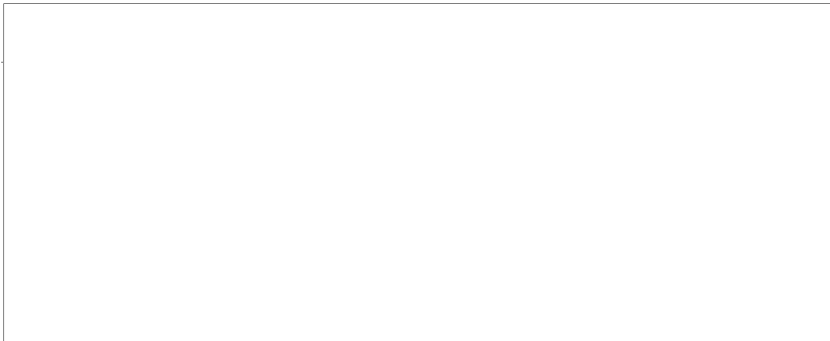
50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA - SOUTH VIETNAM

Two ARVN paratroop battalions are meeting only light resistance as they advance west on Route 7 from Kompong Cham toward the Communist-held village of Troeung. A third South Vietnamese battalion was airlifted into position north of Troeung to link up with the other two battalions. The remainder of the 2,400-man ARVN task force is conducting perimeter clearing operations around Kompong Cham city.

Farther west on Route 7, two Cambodian Army battalions, including a Khmer Krom battalion, are surrounded on the outskirts of Prey Totung, and three government paratroop battalions are encircled southwest of the town. The bulk of the Cambodian forces involved in the joint operation are supposed to be proceeding east on Route 7 to join ARVN forces between Prey Totung and Kompong Cham.

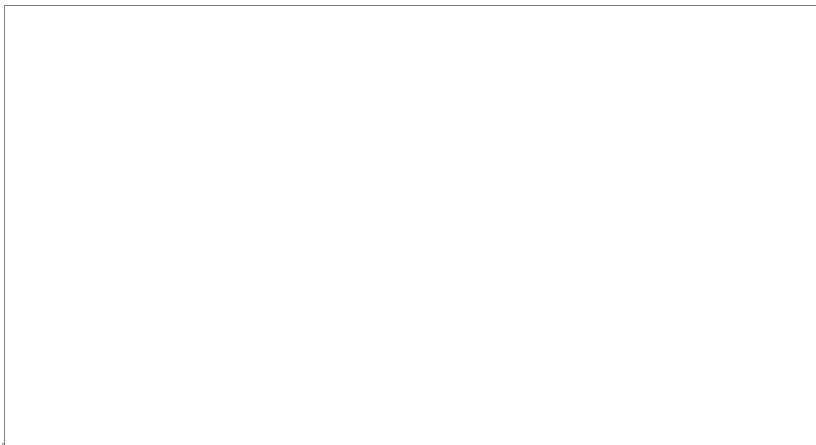


50X1



50X1

\* \* \*

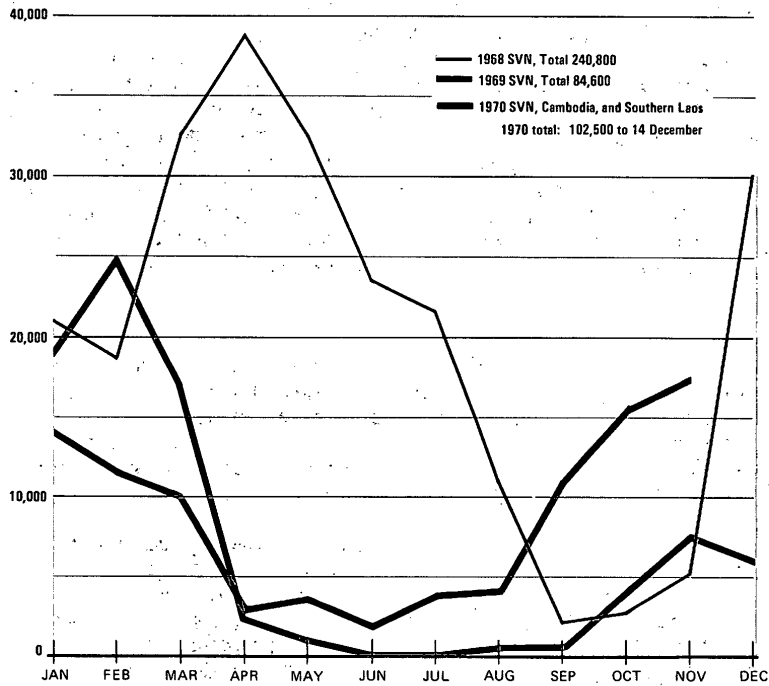


50X1



50X1

### North Vietnam: Infiltration Starts



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1968 SVN	21,000	18,900	32,600	38,900	32,800	23,500	21,800	11,000	2,200	2,800	5,200	30,100
1969 SVN	19,200	25,000	17,100	2,300	1,100	100	100	600	600	4,500	7,800	6,200
1970 SVN, Cambodia, and Southern Laos	14,200	11,700	10,600	3,100	3,800	2,100	4,100	4,400	11,000	15,200	17,300	5,000*
Southern Laos	600	-	-	700	700	900	700	3,300	10,200	3,400	2,600	2,100*

Totals for 1968 and 1969 include troops bound for South Vietnam only; those for 1970 include troops bound for South Vietnam, Southern Laos, and Cambodia.

550698 12-70 CIA

\*to date

50X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**NORTH VIETNAM**

About 5,000 North Vietnamese troops have started south thus far in December. All of these have been detected in the last week, following a lull of about ten days. The new input is in line with a recent Communist message saying that groups were to enter the system regularly beginning 7 December.

*If this rate of flow is maintained, December's total will be about the same as those for October and November--between 15,000 and 17,000.*

**Israelis**



50X1

50X1



*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

ISRAEL - SAUDI ARABIA

[Redacted]

50X1  
50X1

[Redacted]

50X1  
50X1

[Redacted]

50X1



*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**BALKANS - COMMUNIST CHINA**

[Redacted]

50X1  
50X1

[Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted]

50X1

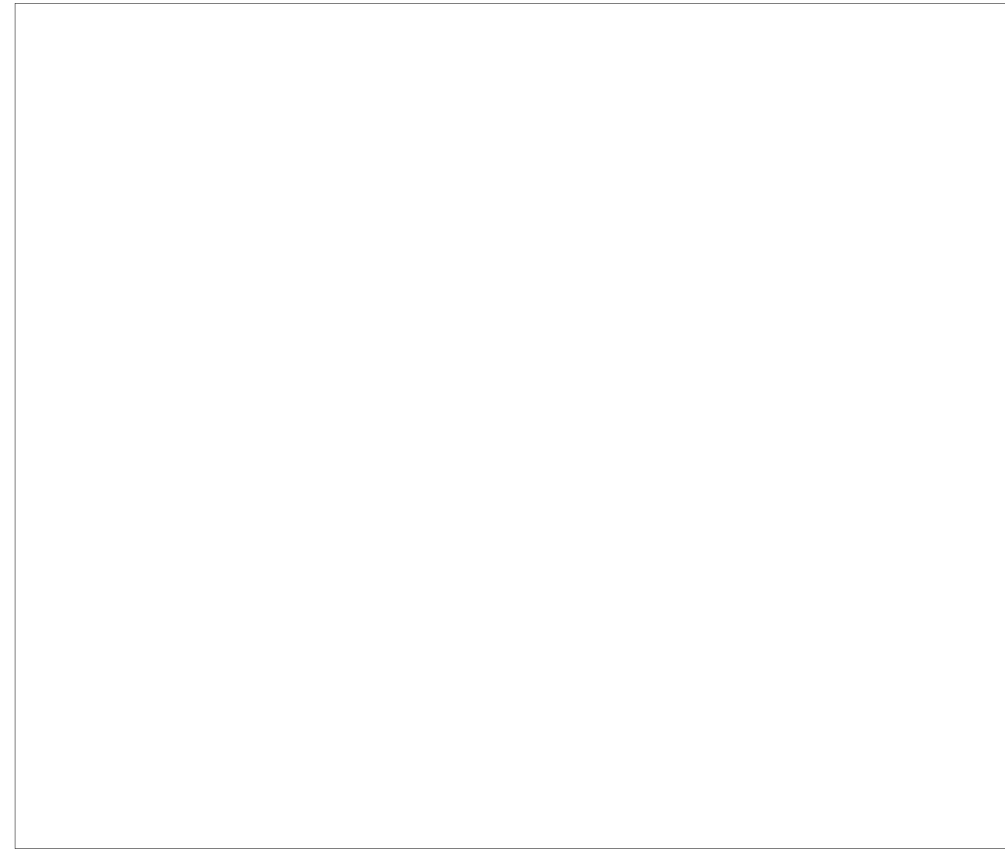
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

INDIA

Speculation is growing in Indian political and press circles that Prime Minister Gandhi will dissolve parliament this week and schedule new elections for early 1971. Mrs. Gandhi was handed a popular issue yesterday when the Supreme Court invalidated her government's recent abolition of payments and privileges granted former rulers of India's princely states. She may use this as the pretext for an early election.

*Under its constitution, India's next general election could be held as late as February 1972, but it is increasingly doubtful that Mrs. Gandhi will wait that long. Her popularity is high, and the moderate and conservative parties that oppose her are in increasing disarray. The prime minister--who now leads a minority government--could almost certainly win a majority in parliament if an election were held soon. By delaying, she would risk having to cope with a variety of problems--a poor harvest in 1971, an increase in inflation, or serious new urban or rural disorders--that could erode her present strong position.*

50X1

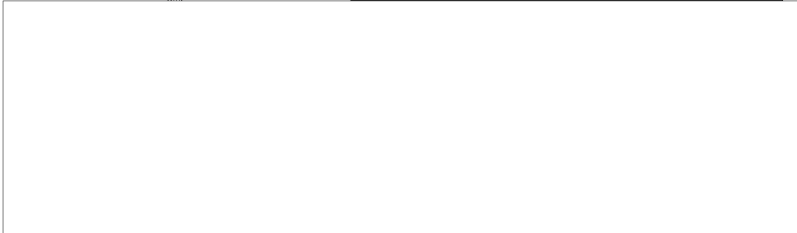


*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTES

Communist China:

50X1(1)



LAOS: An element of the three-battalion irregular force moving toward Ban Ban from the north was attacked Monday by Communist troops about nine miles northwest of the base; radio contact was lost and no other details are available. Early this morning the North Vietnamese overran a government outpost about ten miles south of Ban Ban. Irregular outposts southwest of the Plaine des Jarres were harassed, but no casualties were sustained.

Poland: Last weekend police intervention was necessary in Poznań to quell a workers' protest against a recent hike in the price of some consumer items. The government claims the price increases were necessary because consumer demand, especially for food, could not be satisfied. The populace is not likely to be appeased by this type of rationale. Unconfirmed press reports this morning indicate that there have been riots in Gdansk, Gdynia, and Sopot on the Baltic seacoast.

*Top Secret*